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10-14-2021

Montana Kaimin, October 14, 2021

Students of the University of Montana, Missoula

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MONTANA KAIMIN



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Cover photo Antonio Ibarra

October 14, 2021 | Volume 124 | Issue No. 7

Kiosk



The Montana Kaimin is a weekly independent student newspaper at the University of Montana. The Kaimin office and the University of Montana are located on land originally inhabited by the Salish People. Kaimin is a derivative of a Salish language word, "Qe'ymin," that is pronounced kay-MEEN and means "book," "message" or "paper that brings news."

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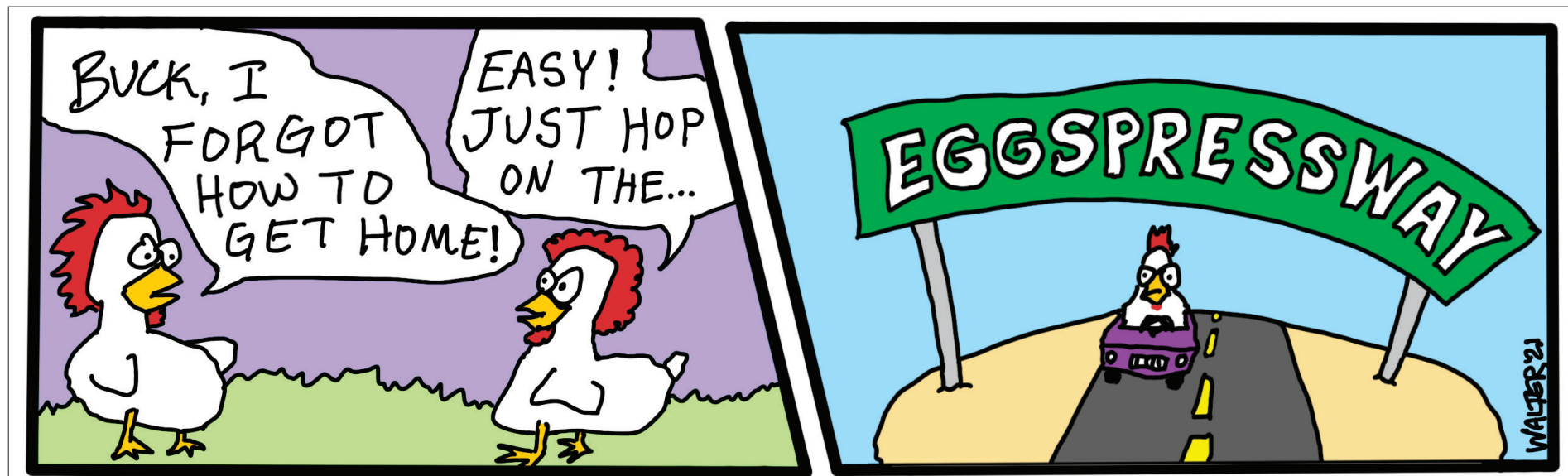
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THE GARAGE: SE 1 EP 7



WALTER MEDCRAFT | MONTANA KAIMIN

Feature Photo: UM celebrates legacy of Indigenous peoples



Aspen Decker, right, a master's student in linguistics at the University of Montana and Salish language teacher, stands next to N̓stews Plentyhorses, one of her four children, holding signs at an Every Child Matters March on the Oval on Oct. 11 honoring indigenous children who lost their lives after they were forcefully sent to boarding schools around the country. The UM community celebrated Indigenous People's Day with numerous activities on campus like a hula dance procession on the Oval and a round dance in front of Main Hall. **ANTONIO IBARRA | MONTANA KAIMIN**

It's more than just a blog

There's a real disconnect between the University of Montana's stated interest in respecting the differences among us and the content of the personal blog of one of its tenured professors.

On his blog, "Upward Thought," computer science professor Rob Smith made numerous egregious and alarming claims about minority groups and marginalized communities — including that women peak at age 18 and should not be educated in the same manner as men, that homosexuality leads to pedophilia and that devout Muslims are inherently violent.

Smith's views are abhorrent for many reasons, but what the Kaimin finds most troubling — and, potentially, most impactful — is that Smith is a professor in higher education advocating for the women he teaches to not be there.

In a November 2020 post titled "Intentionally raising kids in a topsy-turvy world," Smith asserts that, "One false idea widely promoted is that girls should experience the same kind of education as boys." Instead, Smith says women should not give in to the "hedonistic pleasure" that comes from pursuing education and starting a career, and should instead focus on acquiring the skills needed to be a "good mother."

"To avoid unnecessary suffering and maximize her joy, a young woman should know everything she needs to know to be a good wife and mother and be seeking for that at the earliest possible age," Smith writes.

Smith advocates for women to have unequal education compared to men in order for them to learn how to adjust to motherhood.

Last week, Smith took down the blog. But the Kaimin downloaded PDF copies, which are available under the "News" tab on montanakaimin.com.

UM isn't necessarily responsible for one person's blog. Smith's ideas are his own, and the right to free speech protects him. But the Kaimin finds it more than disturbing that his philosophies, especially regard-

ing women and education, perpetuate the trends UM is trying to fight.

The computer science department reported just 22% of its students are women. Chair Jesse Johnson said the gender gap has been a concern for his entire 20 years in the department.

And yet his school and the University have employed a professor who believes women should not have the same educational opportunities as men. And that when they do, those opportunities are detrimental because they are obstacles to a woman's true fulfillment: motherhood.

Whether Smith believes this privately or publicly doesn't matter. His outdated and dangerous views about women and education make the fact he teaches young women very concerning, regardless of how he treats them outwardly.

The existence of this professor's blog shows that sexism in higher education hasn't gone away. And this isn't the only time women have experienced threats to their education or safety at UM this year.

In this semester alone, the University has seen a sexual discrimination suit filed against UM and President Seth Bodnar and allegations that the law school's deans dissuaded students from reporting sexual assaults. Rob Smith's blog is just the latest in a line of problematic events.

While these are all separate occurrences, each point to a culture that continues to target women and members of underrepresented groups. As ASUM President Noah Durnell said in a statement about Smith's blog, the posts are "not a separate conversation — they demonstrate a pattern of continuous discrimination against women at this University."

The Kaimin's question to UM administration is this: Can you continue to employ a professor who doesn't personally believe education should be equal between men and women? And how can Smith say he doesn't allow his views into the classroom when he doesn't seem to think women should be there in the first place?

Like it? Hate it? Wish we were dead?
email us your opinions at editor@montanakaimin.com

SUDOKU

Difficulty: Medium

4				7				3
						1		
3	1	8	4			6	9	7
					8			
8	5		2			3		6
		6		3			2	
6					1			9
			7		6			
2			3			8		4

HOW TO SOLVE:

Each row must contain the numbers 1 to 9; each column must contain the numbers 1 to 9; and each set of 3 by 3 boxes must contain the numbers 1 to 9.

Answers to Last Week's Sudoku:

6	5	8	4	9	7	2	1	3
2	4	7	1	8	3	5	9	6
9	1	3	2	6	5	4	7	8
1	9	4	8	3	6	7	5	2
8	2	5	7	1	4	3	6	9
7	3	6	9	5	2	8	4	1
3	6	9	5	7	8	1	2	4
5	8	2	6	4	1	9	3	7
4	7	1	3	2	9	6	8	5

Briefs: Law school resignation, contact tracing texts and a flat Caras Park

LAW SCHOOL LEADERSHIP RESIGNS

On Oct. 7, the University of Montana's Alexander Blewett III School of Law Dean Paul Kirgis announced his and Associate Dean of Students Sally Weaver's resignations after allegations they'd discouraged students from reporting cases of sexual assault and harassment to Title IX.

"I have come to the conclusion that the School of Law and its students would be best served by a change in leadership," Kirgis said in a statement.

According to Dave Kuntz, UM's strategic communications director, Kirgis will stay on as a tenured faculty member, but with a cut to his \$201,000 salary. Kuntz added that the University is still planning to conduct an independent investigation into the allegations brought against the law school by the Daily Montanan.

The resignation came just two days after more than 100 law students participated in a walkout to call for Kirgis and Weaver to step down.

"My initial reaction is definitely shock and happiness," said Everett Johns, law student and co-organizer of the walkout. "I wish he had resigned years ago, but it is what it is. I'm disappointed to hear that he's going to be staying on as tenured faculty."

Central to the allegations of sexual assault is mayoral candidate and law student Jacob Elder. Elder was accused by multiple women of sexual harassment and assault, but he refutes the allegations. In a statement, he said he supports

Kirgis and the law school. He described the Daily Montanan's story about the allegations against him and others in the law school as a witch hunt.

"It appears to be another episode in a smear campaign directed at me since my announcement for Mayor," Elder said in a statement. "I refuse to honor dishonorable tactics with a retreat. I am a Marine."

Find the full story at montanakaimin.com and follow us as this story develops. (Mazana Boerboom)

COVID-19 UPDATE

The Missoula City County Health Department reported one UM-affiliated COVID-19 case Tuesday, bringing the total active number to 109. Since the start of October, the University has averaged over 100 active cases.

Countywide, there were 2785 active cases. More than 50 people are hospitalized in Missoula, and at least 10 residents have died from the virus since the start of October.

Montana is still experiencing an unprecedented surge of COVID-19, with half of the state's ICU beds occupied by patients sick with the virus. The county has doubled its daily average new cases since the start of school on Aug. 30.

"People should stay cautious," said Hayley

Devlin, Missoula County public information officer. "Some cases in the last few weeks have had over 50 close contacts. The smartest thing to do right now is limit your social circles."

Due to the high intake of positive cases, the health department launched a new text interface contact tracing system Oct. 7. Residents identified as positive cases or close contacts

will receive a text message from the health department with a link to a form they must fill out.

Phone calls can also be available for those with no texting ability. (Griffen Smith)

NEW HOUSE DISTRICT MAP NARROWED

The effort to nail down a new map for Montana's two congressional seats took another step forward after the Montana Districting and Apportionment Commission listed nine finalist maps for the government to consider.

Montana regained a seat in the U.S. House after the 2020 census, marking the first time the state will have more than one representative since 1992. Since 1996, the at-large seat has been held by Republicans.

The maps themselves vary from dividing Montana along the Rocky Mountain Front to creating a southwestern corner district. The maps are visible on the Montana Free Press

webpage, a non-profit news organization.

The commission's next meeting, Oct. 19, will feature a time for public comment. The five-person team, with two Republicans, two Democrats and one independent, will be arguing over where population centers like Kalispell and Bozeman will be placed in the new districts.

The commission has until Nov. 14 to choose a final map, which will come into play fall 2022 for the midterm elections. (GS)

MISSOULA PARK GETS FACELIFT

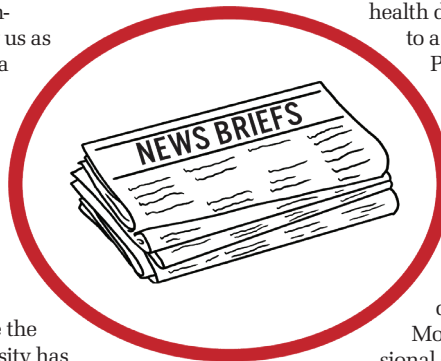
Parts of the idyllic Caras Park in downtown Missoula were closed off last week to replace the long-standing amphitheater and popular grassy hill in a massive overhaul to the city's river park system, according to the city's website.

The \$2.2 million project will include a facelift around the Beartracks Bridge on Higgins Street, along with updated designs for Caras, East Caras, Bess Reed, Kiwanis, and Downtown Lions parks, as well as Ron's River Trail.

The hill will be permanently flattened and replaced with a multi-use field. The amphitheater will be rebuilt in the same location, but have ADA accessible seating. The paths around the first construction job will be widened and the city plans to install more light posts.

In the long term, the city will build a new parking garage west of Caras. With extra space from the parking lots, there are plans to open a second playground and ice rink near the Carousel.

Sections of Caras Park will be intermittently closed through the winter. (GS)



Blotter: Graffitied playgrounds, MIPs and trespassing nuisances

GRACE CARR

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Between Sept. 30 and Oct. 6, University of Montana Police Department reported nine crimes on and around campus. The most common crime of the week — drumroll, please — theft! That's right, folks; for the sixth week, sneaky thieves are at the top of the podium with six bike thefts reported in the crime log. For those of age, alcohol was sold for the first time at the UM soccer games Oct. 1 and 3. UM Police Chief Brad Giffin said it was a success and there were no issues at the field.

MONDAY 10/04: PLAYGROUND PAINTINGS

Spray paint plus kids equals a fun night for them youths, and a pain-in-the-ass morning for maintenance. The playground at the University Villages was graffitied the evening of Sept. 21, according to a Compliance, Safety & Account-

ability report given to UMPD Oct.

4. "It was just some gibberish, nothing that made any sense," Giffin said.

MONDAY 10/04: REMOVED FOR IMPOLITENESS

UMPD received an additional CSA report from UM Housing about a man causing issues around multiple on-campus locations. The culprit was removed from UM property in September for repeatedly causing small disturbances and being rude to others. UMPD logged the incidents as disorderly conduct on Oct. 4 when more information was given to officers in the CSA report. Today's crime blotter lesson is: Don't be a nuisance in a place you don't need to be.



TUESDAY 10/05: TROUBLEMAKING KIDDO

Sometimes all you need for free birth control is the aroma of a full diaper, a mess of butternut squash and a misbehaving kid. Around 7:30 a.m. on Oct. 5, officers arrived at the Craighead Apartments to assist with an ungovernable child who was not listening to their guardian. Nothing like a little intervention to start off the morning.

TUESDAY 10/05: STOLEN BIKES A YEAR LATER

How does one make another bike theft blurb interesting to read? Please, someone tell me because I'm running out of steam here. Six bikes were reported missing this week, though half of those went missing more than a year ago. On Sept. 8, 2020, the ASUM Bike Storage

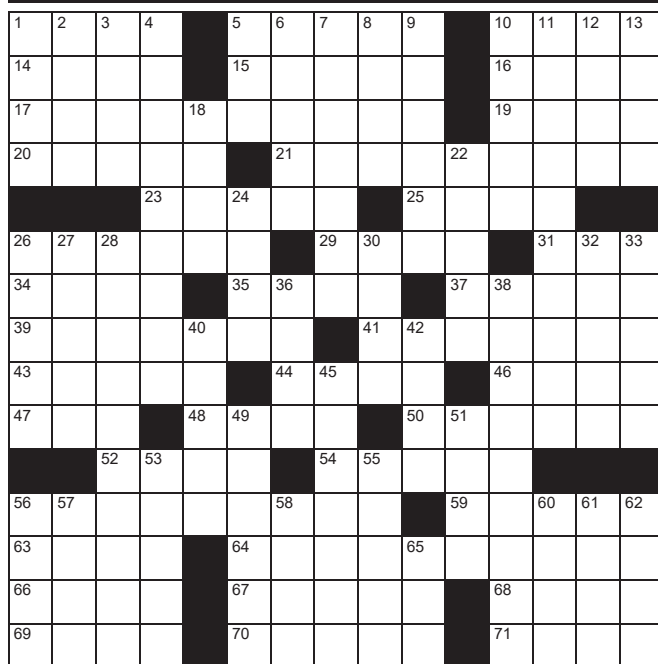
Yard gate was cut, but no bikes were suspected missing. However, a year later, three bikes are gone and officers believe they were taken during the break-in last year. Never too late to hope, I guess. The other three bikes were taken from bike racks across UM property. Maybe those will be found in the next year, but given this blotter's bike-theft reputation, I doubt it.

WEDNESDAY 10/06: TO DRINK, OR NOT TO DRINK

Tsk, tsk, Knowles Hall, what are we going to do with you? In the early evening on Oct. 6, officers responded to a Knowles Hall dorm room where three underage students were busted with alcohol under the age of 21 and given liquor law violations. Four other students were in the room, but they only received conduct violations because there was no proof they were in possession of alcohol. A.K.A. four people got lucky and three others lost their college party privileges.

The Weekly Crossword

by Margie E. Burke



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ACROSS

- 1 Hefty rival
- 5 Waterston's D.A. on "Law & Order"
- 10 Impassioned
- 14 Type of paper or pudding
- 15 Fictional Scarlett
- 16 "Fame" star Irene
- 17 Facing trouble
- 19 In the know about
- 20 Down-and-out
- 21 Sedimentary rock
- 23 Bay window
- 25 Washstand item
- 26 Seven Wonders lighthouse
- 29 Remove the rind
- 31 Caps Lock neighbor
- 34 Tibetan monk
- 35 Ground beef option
- 37 Mournful song
- 39 Iron Man or Thor, in a film series
- 41 Kind of market
- 43 Extra inning
- 44 2014 Affleck flick, "___ Girl"
- 46 Scrabble draw
- 47 Draw to a close
- 48 Foul smell
- 50 Breakfast order
- 52 Grimace
- 54 Doomed one
- 56 Be suspicious
- 59 Select group
- 63 Keep an eye on
- 64 Self-restraint
- 66 Part of ABM
- 67 Basket willow

- 68 Many miles away
- 69 Ploy
- 70 Button material
- 71 1040, for one

DOWN

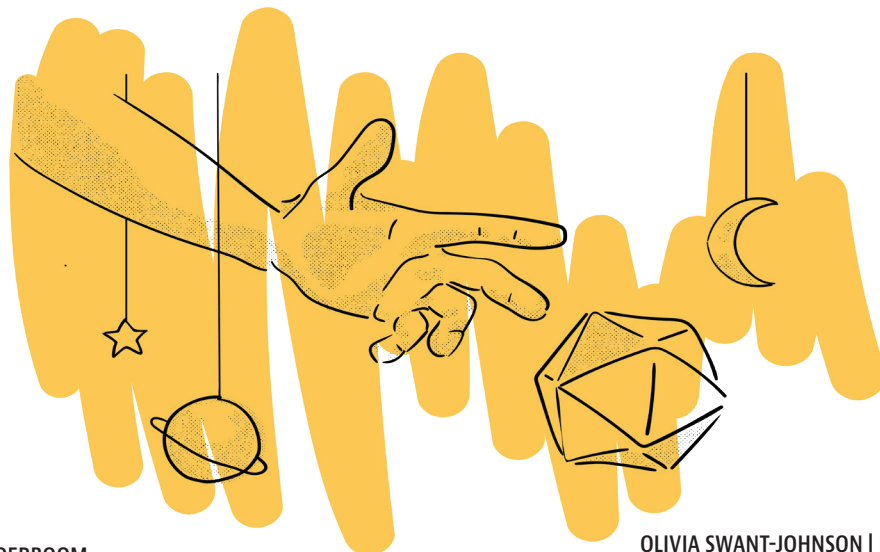
- 1 Cheshire Cat trademark
- 2 Cash biopic "Walk the ___"
- 3 Stomach woe
- 4 Toiletry product
- 5 Grounds-keeper's task
- 6 Scene with stuntmen
- 7 Tree with white flower clusters
- 8 Lucy's "Kill Bill" character
- 9 Logging equipment
- 10 Critical
- 11 Streak in an aircraft's wake
- 12 Heavy metal
- 13 Copenhagen native
- 18 Beginner
- 22 Greta Garbo, for one
- 24 Wight, for one
- 26 Word with hot or home
- 27 Any port in a storm
- 28 Constitutional add-ons
- 30 Briefly unknown?
- 32 Light-footed
- 33 Military cap
- 36 Proof word
- 38 Protective sheet
- 40 Halloween spook
- 42 Lowly laborer
- 45 Type of farming
- 49 Church officer
- 51 Part of G.M.T.
- 53 Nostalgic number
- 55 River critter
- 56 Celestial body
- 57 Remote button
- 58 Santa ___, CA
- 60 What FAQ's offer
- 61 Capone trademark
- 62 School session
- 65 Indignation

Answers to Last Week's Crossword:

S	E	C	T	O	V	E	R	A	S	A	P
C	A	C	H	E	L	A	M	E	S	P	U
I	L	L	A	D	V	I	S	E	D	H	E
T	S	A	R	A	V	E	R	R	E	C	A
E	A	T	A	B	L	E	G	I	A	N	T
C	R	E	S	C	E	N	T	A	P	T	
C	A	F	T	A	N	A	N	T	E	A	T
O	G	R	E	T	R	I	T	E	B	O	R
C	O	E	R	C	I	O	N	S	T	O	R
A	G	E	A	N	C	E	S	T	O	R	
S	H	R	E	K	H	A	M	I	T	U	P
A	C	T	U	P	F	E	A	T	G	O	N
L	O	O	M	B	A	L	L	E	R	I	N
T	U	N	A	A	L	S	O	I	N	E	R
O	P	E	N	G	L	A	M	G	E	R	M

Horoscope

Dungeons and daddy issues



OLIVIA SWANT-JOHNSON | MONTANA KAIMIN

MAZANA BOERBOOM

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Alright nerds, it's time to talk about Dungeons and Dragons. STOP LYING! We know you have fantasized about slaying a dragon in the table-top roleplaying games world at least once. And if you haven't, here's a taste of the mad vibes you're missing out on. Listen, sometimes being a magical little elf feels nicer than facing the hell-hole we live in. So let's break down what D&D class fits you the best.

LIBRA (SEP. 23–OCT. 22): Libra, you're that bitch. You know, That Bitch™. As the sorcerer, you're just inherently good at everything you do, and you don't understand why some things are hard for other people.

SCORPIO (OCT. 23–NOV. 21): You fucking freak. We all know you've always dreamed of being in a cult and so you live out your fantasy as a warlock. You have this weird connection to a pigeonhole deity who gives you eldritch powers. But really it's your Sugar Daddy Roger. :) And your ~ magic ~ is just shitty tarot card readings.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22–DEC. 22): Ranger is just too perfect for you, Sag. You dream of wandering the world, getting drunk and hunting monsters. But when it comes down to it, you like to stay on the sidelines of the fight with your bow and arrow, away from the messiness.

CAPRICORN (DEC. 23–JAN. 19): You are the most disciplined sign, so you appreciate the hard work that goes into making a good fighter. You're really good at keeping track of your stats and maximizing your damage, but remember to have fun with the roleplay once in a while too.

AQUARIUS (JAN. 20–FEB. 18): As the rogue, you claim to be the most original party member, yet you steal everyone else's ideas. You sneaky little snowflake. Honestly, you're just the edgy twink who slinks in the shadows and has a tragic backstory about your dead parents. #sneakattackbecauseimafraidofconfrontation

PISCES (FEB. 19–MARCH 20): Pisces, we all know you were a horse girl growing up. So it's only natural that you'd play the class that allows you to turn into a horse yourself. Being a druid lets you be aloof and talk to plants without people looking at you like you're crazy.

ARIES (MARCH 21–APRIL 19): Rage is your primary emotion, Aries. Or maybe that's just the five RedBulls you downed this morning, being the barbarian you are. Either way, you should try to channel it in a healthy way: by aggressively dealing 70 points of damage each combat round using your trusty great sword Cutter.

TAURUS (APRIL 20–MAY 20): Taurus, as the bard, you embody the manic-pixie-dream-girl trope, and you know it. You flaunt your stuff because you'll do anything to get your way (and you secretly live for the chaos NO CAP). But don't think we didn't see you trying to seduce the Beholder. ;)

GEMINI (MAY 21–JUNE 20): The most self-important class, for the most self-important sign: wizard. You guys absolutely reek of pretentious bitch, and you can somehow talk faster than all the other signs without anyone knowing a word you just said. And while you sometimes think you're powerful enough to take on a god, we all know you're the squishiest one here.

CANCER (JUNE 21–JULY 22): Cancer, you're inevitably the cleric in every game. And even after complaining after every battle (and we mean EVERY one) about being on the frontlines, you're still in the front. The monster keeps targeting you and you don't understand why. You're just trying to heal your wizard friend who is bleeding out in front of you. But it's okay because at the end of the day we all need your emotional support and Cure Wounds. We love you, our whiny heal bot. <3

LEO (JULY 23–AUG. 22): Leo, you think you're the main character. God himself – or herself – has entrusted you with a glorious purpose and it's up to you to smite the evil-doers of the world and look sexy as hell (or heaven because hell is for the heretics) while doing it. Or so you think. It's pretty clear you're The Paladin™.

VIRGO (AUG. 23–SEP. 22): In this hypothetical fantasy world, you're still a perfectionist. Even escapism won't free you from that. As the monk of the group, you're practical and quick. You have about two different moves, and they always work. #StUnnInGStRiKe

ASUM calls for more safety stations, improvements to security

JACOB OWENS

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The Associated Students of the University of Montana unanimously passed a resolution Sept. 29 encouraging UM to build more emergency stations on campus, better maintain them and install security cameras.

Senate Bill 16, which passed 23-0, urged the University to add an additional safety station or emergency telephones to the south end of Washington-Grizzly Stadium and add cameras to the existing 17 stations, which connect students with a dispatcher from the University of Montana Police Department during an emergency.

Elizabeth Bowles, who authored the resolution, said she felt they needed improvement after doing research such as testing some of the stations.

"I was just like, 'Yeah, all signs are pointing toward the fact that if we're going to have these on campus we need to be more strategic about it and put some more effort into maintaining them,'" she said.

Bowles said the station she tested by Knowles Hall did not work, which led to the portion of the resolution demanding "stations on campus are maintained in response to complaints of deficiencies."

Chris Croft, UMPD's lieutenant of operations, said he would need to do additional research to determine if UMPD is aware of the station's malfunction and if it's been fixed. He said officers sometimes check the stations, but normally Griz Walk employees are in charge of checking them. Griz Walk is a student-run team that escorts students around campus and the wider University District between dusk and dawn.

He said the internal practice was tracked informally, but UMPD will start documenting it in a formal manner.

Bowles said the resolution's primary focus is to add a station south of Washington-Grizzly Stadium, saying the one northwest of the stadium is sometimes fenced in during events. She said the football stadium is a place where people are intoxicated and can be targeted for crimes.

SB 16 also advocates for additional stations to be placed "where there are higher crime reports, high traffic and dense population areas of campus."

Bowles said one potential location is between the Mansfield Library and

the Oval. Jorgie Hawthorne, one of the senators who approved the resolution, said she could see an additional station between Craig and Elrod Halls and the Health Sciences Building, where there is a large parking lot away from most of campus.

used much, it is worth the expense so if a student needs a station they have one nearby.

Croft said UMPD mostly agrees with the resolution and wants to provide individuals on campus with more ways to get help, but he said another station by the stadium might be

He said the emergency telephones have been pressed 76 times since January 2018, and many times officers are met with no reply. Croft said each time a station's button is pressed it connects the caller with dispatch and simultaneously sends an officer to the location.

The resolution urges for updates to the stations like adding surveillance cameras to identify people and for when an officer responds to a station and no one is there.

Croft said the main obstacle to changes proposed in the resolution is finding money for them. However, there is already a million-dollar project underway to address campus lighting.

Brian Kerns, the project engineer with UM's building operations, began leading a monthly University stakeholder group focused on improving campus lighting in October 2019. Kerns said the group developed a \$1.6 million project to improve lighting on campus.

The project includes adding over 200 light posts, roughly a third of which will be outfitted for surveillance cameras that can be installed later, Kerns stated in an email to the Kaimin. He said even though the plan does not include outfitting emergency stations for surveillance cameras, each station should be in view of at least one light post with a camera.

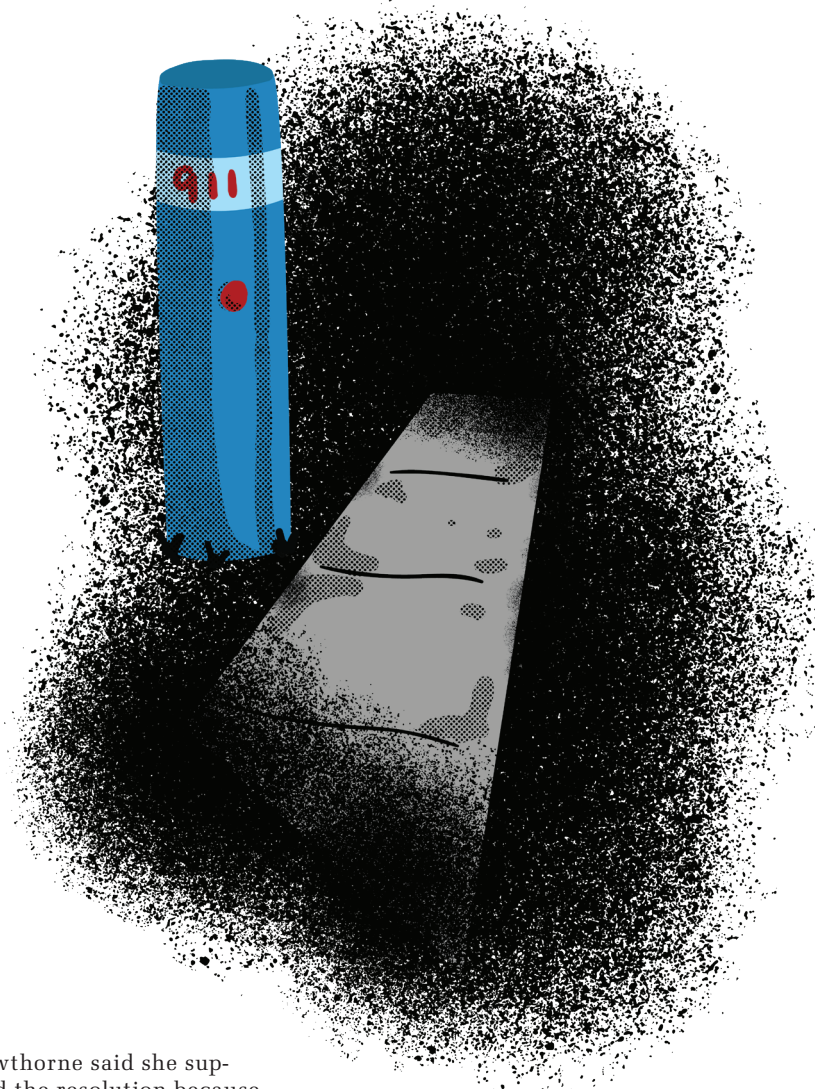
Dave Kuntz, UM's director of strategic communications, said the University could look at changes proposed in the resolution for next year's budget since the current year's budget is "already in motion." He said the University often seeks state or federal funding for projects to improve campus.

"We leave no stone unturned when trying to find resources to improve our campus, and this is certainly consistent with that," he said.

Bowles said she will keep asking about the emergency stations and promoting the changes proposed in the resolution.

"I think students don't realize sometimes how big their voice can be if they just take the extra steps to push for things," she said.

The number for Griz Walk is (406)-243-2777 and UMPD can be reached at (406) 243-4000 in case of an emergency.



Hawthorne said she supported the resolution because she experienced walking across campus at night last year while living on campus. She said parents consistently ask about student safety.

"The first questions parents always ask are food, housing and safety and being able to say, 'Hey we're actually taking all of these new steps so that your child will be safe,' is just an extra reassurance on the parent," Hawthorne said.

She said even if the stations do not get

OLIVIA SWANT-JOHNSON | MONTANA KAIMIN

unnecessary. He said several officers are present for major events at the stadium and reaching out to them for help is likely quicker than locating a safety station.

"Outside of those large events where you have a lot of security present, such as the middle of the night on a Wednesday, I can see where they're coming from in regards to the resolution," Croft said.

Missoula bike scene looks to expand, cycling advocates hope for more protection

GRIFFEN SMITH

griffen.smith@umontana.edu

University of Montana students Jenny Alvauaje and Chad Keller crisscrossed Missoula's bike trails as part of a new ASUM transportation Monday night bike ride.

"I never realized this town was so easy to get around," Keller said while riding through the Riverside neighborhood Oct. 4. "You really can get everywhere on bike."

Alvauaje, a transportation ambassador with ASUM, helps sponsor the community ride event, which takes place each Monday at 5:30 p.m. Although Alvauaje and Keller were the only two bikers riding that night, it's no secret the two-wheeled, human-powered machine is one of the city's most popular pastimes.

Roughly 6% of Missoula residents use biking as their main form of transportation year round, though cold weather considerably lowers the rate of bikers in the winter, according to the city's metropolitan planning organization. With the region continuing to expand, city officials are working to triple the number of cyclists by 2045.

But while Missoula is one of the top 10 safest U.S. cities to own a bike in, a fifth of all the city's serious vehicle crashes include bicycles. Future upgrades could strengthen previously untouched roads, especially in the downtown area.

"We are currently in the planning process to upgrade Higgins between Broadway and Brooks," city biking planner Ben Weiss said. "It would be a comprehensive fix. A lot of people can't even turn left in a car there during busy hours, let alone bikers having their own lane to ride on."

The city plans to add more biking signage near designated paths, improve existing bike lanes and incorporate "greenways," which are smaller streets that can act as a thoroughfare for pedestrians. The larger changes involving intersections and main streets could take longer because the city would have to get approval from the Montana Department of Transportation.

Bob Giordano, director of Free Cycles community bike shop, has long been an advocate for bike use. As he walked the non-profit's side yard crammed with rows of renovated bikes, he said more work needs to be done to keep cyclists safe.

"There's about two bikers involved in car crashes here every week, and those are just the reported ones," Giordano said. "We have some great sections of bike access in this town, but it is still a patchwork."

In summer 2020, a woman was hospitalized after a car hit and dragged her off her bike while heading South on the Hipstrip. Another man was hit and killed on Stephens Street in February.

Weiss said on average about 60 out of 3,000 crashes in the city involve bikes. Yet out of the 100 annual serious crashes, 20 involved cyclists. Giordano wants to see more protected bike lanes, like the raised paths on North Higgins, and roundabouts to replace city stop lights.

Separated bike lanes on 5th and 6th Streets and the completion of the Beartracks Bridge across Higgins with protected bike lanes are some of the most recent bicycle-related improvements.

Free Cycles helps people build free bikes in exchange for volunteering around its First Street location. In 25 years of service, more than 22,000 people have made free bikes with the organization.

Giordano said the requirements dropped from four hours of volunteer work to just 90 minutes. While the weather is still fair, users of freecycles can still build their bikes outside.

"We want to get as many people to be more sustainable and healthy by commuting in the city with their bike [as possible]," Giordano said. "I traded in my car years ago and haven't looked back."

Free Cycles is open 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday. Alongside the free bike service, the shop does parts repairs and replacements, live music and now has its own bike shop.

At UM's transportation department, the demand for bikes is growing. Daniel Gundlach, a transit supervisor for ASUM, said the department's 60 long-term rental bikes sold out by the beginning of the semester.

"We usually sell out at some point, but within the first weekend is faster than usual," he said.

ASUM offers weekly, monthly, semester-long and yearly rates for three-gear bicycles. The office also started the weekly ride program to get more students connected during a more restrictive part of the pandemic.

Alvauaje, who does the rides every other week, said she prefers biking in Missoula compared to her past city of Los Angeles. While guiding participants around Missoula, a five mile average ride, Alvauaje also points out popular cafes or important sites in town.

"It's honestly a really great job and I feel like I can unwind with a ride just as much as anything else," Alvauaje said.



Bob Giordano sits under a dome of tires in the back of Free Cycles on Oct. 6. The UM grad has operated the free bike program for 25 years. **GRIFFEN SMITH | MONTANA KAIMIN**



Chad Keller leads a group of bikers across the California Street Pedestrian Bridge during a ASUM Transportation Monday night ride. **GRIFFEN SMITH | MONTANA KAIMIN**



‘ETHICALLY BANKRUPT’ BLOG: UM professor reported for misogynistic writings

Story by Andy Tallman Photos by Antonio Ibarra

Quotes from Albert Einstein, Muhammad Ali and Dr. Seuss hang from Smith's office door in the social sciences building. Aside from posting antiquated views about women and their value, Smith also published blog posts stating that child sex trafficking and pedophilia are due to modern "sins" like the acceptance of queer and transgender people. **ANTONIO IBARRA | MONTANA KAIMIN**

TENURED University of Montana computer science professor Rob Smith maintained a blog in which he disparaged women, Muslims and the LGBTQ+ community. On the blog, he urges men of all ages to date women close to age 18, because they peak at 16 then quickly "lose value."

"Your physical attractiveness is your most valuable asset in finding a husband," Smith writes as advice to young women in a blog post titled "Counsel to young people about spouse selection."

"This value peaks from 16-18, fades slowly until 25, then starts fading quickly. Your pool of potential husbands shrinks significantly with every year past 18," the post continues.

Smith supports this claim, and many others, by citing scripture, including Mormon

texts. According to his blog, titled "Upward Thought," Smith was excommunicated from the Mormon church. He has run the blog for eight years, and it links to a YouTube channel. The videos bear UM's Rob Smith's voice, according to Jesse Johnson, the chair of the computer science department.

Johnson said he reported "Upward Thought" to his superiors after seeing the post "Isaiah 3 part 2: The problem with the women." He didn't name who he reported it to. He emailed his coworkers about the blog on Sept. 17. UM's strategic communications director Dave Kuntz said the President's office was made aware of it on Sept. 23.

Smith declined the Kaimin's multiple requests for an in-person interview. He did not deny ownership of the blog.

UM President Seth Bodnar tweeted he was

"personally disgusted" by Smith's views as reported by the Montana Kaimin. He advised Officials take "immediate action to address these matters." Kuntz said the University would conduct an investigation of Smith and his blog.

Johnson reviewed the blog when Smith was up for tenure in 2017, but said he found nothing more than fundamentalist Mormon theology. He couldn't tie the blog to UM's Rob Smith because the name is so common, and Smith had yet to link his YouTube channel. The blog wasn't mentioned in Johnson's tenure opinion to the dean. Smith was awarded tenure.

Faculty, spokespeople and deans interviewed by the Kaimin say Smith's views run counter to campus values. But because of the First Amendment, the University can't take action against Smith without Title IX finding

discrimination or harassment in his actions, according to Kuntz. Several coworkers and students said Smith has not voiced the views on his blog in his classroom or workplace.

"The ideas in that blog are ethically and intellectually bankrupt," said Douglas Brinkerhoff, a faculty member in the computer science department. Ethics is among the courses Smith teaches this semester.

"I would not advise any student, but particularly one from an underrepresented group in [computer science], to work with or take a course from someone who holds the views declared in these blog posts and videos. In fact, I would advise the opposite," Brinkerhoff wrote in an email. "It would be unethical for me to either promote or be complacent in placing a student in that situation."

Last week, as the Kaimin began reporting on

his blog, Smith deleted all the posts and made private the videos on his YouTube channel that referenced gender. The Kaimin saved PDFs of the posts and downloaded the videos, which can be found on the news tab of our website, montanakaimin.com. The blog was archived on the Wayback Machine.

The link to the Wayback Machine no longer worked past the first page of posts after the story was published online.

After the story's publication online, UM President Seth Bodnar responded to Smith's blog, stating, "I am personally disgusted by the homophobic and misogynistic views that were reported in the Montana Kaimin. Building a culture of respect, empowerment, and equity is foundational to our mission at UM as well as personally important to me. I have directed the appropriate university officials to take immediate action to address this matter through investigatory and supportive measures."

On the morning of Oct. 11, a website was made entitled Fire Rob Smith, which directs students to the social media accounts and gives a template for students to use to email the president and provost's offices. Instagram, Twitter and Facebook accounts, with the handles @firerobsmith, @FireRobSmith and Fire Rob Smith respectively, emerged. The website called on students to boycott Smith's classes and sign a petition. By the morning of Oct. 12, the petition had over 1,500 signatures and the Instagram account @firerobsmith had 318 followers.

Following Monday's events, on Oct. 12, the Kaimin received an email from Kuntz stating Smith would be put on paid leave during the University's investigation of his blog. Smith will not be teaching or physically on campus during his leave, and his courses will be taught by another instructor, according to Kuntz.

"The university's goal is to make this transition with as little disruption as possible for the students in the computer science department," Kuntz stated in the email on Oct. 12.

THE CONTENT

In a blog post, "Isaiah 3 part 2: The problem with the women," Smith writes: "It will come across as some wacko propaganda, but did you know that women peak physically at age 16? It is interesting that, on the one hand, modern society has made it taboo for a man to marry a 16 year old or so woman, suggesting it is inappropriate to find a 16 year old or so woman attractive, while simultaneously designing all manner of makeup products and fine-twined linen to make women older than this look as similar as possible to 16 year old or so women. [I use the word woman because historically people used to base a woman's physical maturity on—you know, her physical maturity, instead of on an arbitrary age.]"

"No amount of training can make an elite female runner run faster than an elite male runner, or an elite female lifter stronger than

an elite male lifter. Similarly, women will always, for example, make decisions based on feelings rather than logic," Smith writes in the same post.

"Men and women are different when it comes to production, even in a service/information economy. Testosterone creates drive and aggression, which translates into professional performance. Because of this, a graph of production for the whole population would be a Pareto distribution, and you would find far more men at the right side than women," Smith states on the blog.

Smith then goes on to say women's bodies become less valuable after 30, so women should seek a husband and have kids as soon as possible.

In the post "Counsel to young people about spouse selection," Smith also offers advice to men seeking wives.

"If you are in your peak, seek a woman in hers. This means you should be dating women who are as close to 18 as you can get, whatever age you are," Smith writes. "...the younger a woman is, the more likely she is not jaded, the more positive energy she will have, and the more years you will have with her before rolling the dice of the hormonal changes that might turn her into a completely different woman than you married."

"If you are a man, any woman you marry will either be a mom or a daughter to you. If you are a woman, any man you marry will either be a dad or a son to you," Smith writes in "You marry a dad, a son, a mom, or a daughter."

"In an ideal situation, the potential husband is fulfilling the role of father, the potential wife is fulfilling the role of daughter."

Smith also writes blog posts about topics other than women and their value. In the post "Misplaced outrage," Smith says child sex trafficking and pedophilia are due to modern "sins" like the acceptance of queer and transgender people.

"You can't be surprised at the pedophiles when you support same sex relationships. What principle allows you to do that? Age of consent, which is both clearly a social construct and also a relatively recent one? How long do you think the magical edict of 18 will last in a society that has already denied God's law, universal psychology [1], and basic biology?" Smith writes.

"You can't be surprised at child sex trafficking when you believe that a 6 year old can choose whether they are a boy or a girl or a 14 year old girl can decide to have an abortion," the blog post states.

"What percent of prostitutes were kidnapped at 12 and held at gunpoint for their whole career? Do they exist? Certainly. But is that who we are talking about when we use blanket terms like 'sex trafficking' (which includes, by the definition of those who make the websites, everyone whether of age or underage, consenting or not). There is a reason we aren't talking about 'sex slaves'. Slaves can't

Misplaced outrage

By Rob · July 27, 2020

You can't be surprised at the pedophiles when you support same sex relationships. What

principle allows you to do that? Age of consent, which is both clearly a social construct and also a relatively recent one? How long do you think the magical edict of 18 will last in a society that has already denied God's law, universal psychology [1], and basic biology?

You can't be surprised at child sex trafficking when you believe pre-pubescent kids should receive sex education and that they should be encouraged to have sex. You can't be surprised when young people taught about sex turns into young people having sex. You can't be surprised when cheap sex turns into paid sex.

You can't be surprised that almost every kid looks at porn at a very young age today when you send you kids to public school and give them cellphones. You can't be surprised when young people watching people have sex turns into young people having sex. You can't be surprised when young people having sex turns into young people having sex with not-so-young people, often for money.

You can't be surprised at child sex trafficking when you believe that a 6 year old can choose whether they are a boy or a girl or a 14 year old girl can decide to have an abortion. If a young child can make such a decision, why can't a 14

year old decide to leave home? And will it be any surprise when that 14 year old decides that having sex for money is a better idea than returning home, when they have the option to do so?

Young women say they want to make an impact

By Rob · June 30, 2020

One of my jobs is that I am a professor at a college. Recently, I decided to try

something new in a freshman class I taught. I asked each student to come by during office hours once during the semester. my goal was to help them out in any way I could during a five minute conversation.

The conversations turned out to be harrowing because of the trainwreck that is most of these peoples' lives. By and large 18-20 year olds today are ships with no rudder, no bearing, and no sails. Of course, there are exceptions, but I am generalizing here. I should not have been surprised, I suppose. I've employed dozens of people of those currently 18-26 or so, and I could not have a lower opinion of these people. With very few exceptions, these people are ill equipped for life in ways that probably are beyond fixing. If you are a parent to children in this age group, you should really feel bad about yourself. You have succeeded in raising the most clueless, most entitled, most medicated, least prepared generation known to history.

Screenshots from two of Rob Smith's blog posts. These screenshots have been shortened for clarity. Smith deleted the posts, but the Kaimin saved PDFs. MARIAH KARIS | MONTANA KAIMIN

"I would not advise any student, but particularly one from an underrepresented group in [computer science], to work with or take a course from someone who holds the views declared in these blog posts and videos. In fact, I would advise the opposite."

- Douglas Brinkerhoff

leave. Prostitutes choose not to,” Smith writes.

In the same vein, Smith writes in a post called “Homosexuality”: “Homosexuality was forbidden by the law of Moses, and is still a sin today, because a person living in a homosexual lifestyle can’t progress as far as one who is not in joy, happiness, etc. It is not always the case that God’s commandments are borne out by scientific evidence. In this case, there is abundant evidence that practicing homosexuals are much more likely to suffer from depression, anxiety, and other mental health problems, kill themselves, etc, than heterosexuals.”

A post entitled “Young women say they want to make an impact” talks disparagingly about the students Smith teaches and employs.

“By and large 18-20 year olds today are ships with no rudder, no bearing, and no sails. Of course, there are exceptions, but I am generalizing here. I should not have been surprised, I suppose. I’ve employed dozens of people of those currently 18-26 or so, and I could not have a lower opinion of these people. With very few exceptions, these people are ill equipped for life in ways that probably are beyond fixing,” Smith writes.

He was disappointed in his male students, who Smith says have done nothing with their lives but go to public school, play video games and watch porn. Smith writes he was disappointed in female students for different reasons. While he was glad to see they wanted to make an impact, Smith writes he feels saddened they wanted to do so by “going to do what every young women does: travel the world, sleep with a dozen young men, get tattoos and a nose ring, gain some weight, die [sic] their hair blue and pink and gray, get a career, and stay single until they are over 30, at which point they will settle with the first guy they can find that makes six figures.”

According to the views shared on Smith’s blog, the way for women to make a positive impact in the world, serve God and find personal fulfillment is by starting a family.

“Intentionally raising kids in a topsy-turvy world,” another post on “Upward Thought,” goes into more details about how Smith views education.

“One false idea widely promoted is that girls should experience the same kind of education as boys. Many reasons are given for this. Here is the reality: If you follow that advice, in addition to all the challenges women face in finding a husband worth marrying and learning the difficult lessons needed to be a good mother (all of which they will have to do with many years less preparation due to filling that time with vocational training and/or working), you are creating an almost insurmountable barrier of forcing your daughter to choose between the quick-and-easy reward of what tend to be simple jobs that women take and the hedonistic pleasure that money buys and the long haul, mundane role of a wife and mother. If you think many girls choose correctly when presented this choice, look around. While most eventually recognize the Faustian bargain



University of Montana computer science professor Rob Smith was reported by Jesse Johnson, chair of the Department of Computer Science, for his controversial online blog “Upward Thought” which included posts that disparage women for seeking careers, a belief that women lose value as they age past 16 and among other opinions. **ANTONIO IBARRA | MONTANA KAIMIN**

they have made, they almost never do so until they are 30+ and their ability to qualify for a good husband and learn what it takes to be a good wife and mother is exceedingly reduced,” Smith writes.

Yet another post on the blog, titled “Muslim Immigration: Stacking the deck to fulfill prophecy,” claims Islam is an inherently violent faith.

“The fact is that one cannot both be a peaceful Muslim and a faithful Muslim. In other words, Muslims are only peaceful to the degree that they are not Muslims,” this post reads.

While, according to students, Smith keeps a seating chart and wears a mask in accordance with the University’s COVID-19 guidelines, he still writes about death and COVID-19 on the blog.

“Almost everyone who is dying from coronavirus has pre-existing conditions. This doesn’t make their lives less valuable, but every one

of them would already be dead, sometimes decades ago, in any other time in human history. They have already received a massive blessing of extended life. They have already received more mercy than they were due,” Smith writes in the post “Why should God stop coronavirus?”

According to the syllabus, Smith offers no option for remote learning in his computer ethics class. Multiple students and faculty members, while disturbed by the blog’s contents, said Smith does not bring these views into the classroom.

THE REACTIONS

Esther Lyon Delsordo, a senior computer science major, said she worked for Smith in summer 2020 at his business, Prime Labs. The company develops tools for analyzing chemical

samples by measuring specific light spectrums. Since the end of the internship, Lyon Delsordo said she has avoided Smith, and she wasn’t surprised to hear about his derogatory posts about women.

“Everyone in the office was kind of afraid of him,” Lyon Delsordo said. The employees were more playful when he wasn’t around, she said, and serious when he was there. That wasn’t the case at Lyon Delsordo’s other internship.

While Lyon Delsordo worked at Prime Labs, she said there was one woman working full time as a software engineer. She said all the other women at Prime Labs were interns or grad students.

Betta Lyon Delsordo, a senior computer science major and Lyon Delsordo’s sister, said Smith’s name came up frequently in discussions about sexism in the department.

“He’s the name that comes up again and again when talking about the environment,”

Betta said.

Rachel Burnett, a female student in Smith's computer ethics class this semester, said she hasn't noticed any gender-based discrimination in Smith's class. She did express frustration with his teaching, saying lectures were based on Smith's own opinions and life experiences rather than staying focused on computer ethics.

Kerrigan McHood interned at Prime Labs in the summer of 2021.

McHood said working at Prime Labs was a good experience. While she said she assumed Smith held conservative views, she thought these views would be relatively normal.

She said Smith was always supportive of her and wanted her to continue working at Prime Labs. She is currently in Smith's ethics class.

Computer science chair Johnson compared reading through Smith's blog to venturing into a cesspool.

"I cut myself off. I can't look at it after a certain amount of time," Johnson said. "It's been one of the most difficult occurrences of my professional career here."

"I'm totally disturbed by his opinions," Johnson said. "We're a public institution. We're here to serve all members of the public."

Johnson said he hadn't seen any of the beliefs Smith writes on the "Upward Thought" blog expressed at work.

The six faculty members of the computer science department, two of whom are women, alternate which classes they teach. While Smith is teaching required classes this semester, he sometimes teaches optional courses. Lyon Delsordo was able to avoid taking Smith's classes for the last two years, but Doug Brinkerhoff, another faculty member who has been vocal about the blog, said it would be unlikely for a student majoring in computer science to not have to take one of Smith's classes.

Another computer science department faculty member, Travis Wheeler, wrote in an email that he was made aware of the blog and YouTube channel, but Smith's writing wasn't reflective of the department or University.

Patricia Duce, a lecturer in the Computer Science department, has had an office next to Smith for the last six years. His blog caught Duce off guard.

"It's hard to believe someone was making these comments about women," Duce said.

She started checking in on students to make sure no one felt threatened or discriminated against. Duce said she mostly checked in with female students — her main concern — and mentioned the blog to some of them.

"It's disturbing for them. They're shook up about it," Duce said.

Duce is also concerned about the male students in the computer science department. She said the faculty are role models for students, and she doesn't want men to think Smith's opinions are acceptable.

Julie Baldwin and Matthew Semanoff, associate deans of the College of Humanities and Sciences, said their initial reaction was disgust

at Smith's views. They said his blog posts and videos share messages that are antithetical to the college's values of an open, inclusive campus environment.

Baldwin said the College of Humanities and Sciences wants all students to feel like they belong, and that includes making women in STEM fields feel welcome.

"Our responsibility is to ensure there's a respectful environment in classrooms and in workplaces," Semanoff said.

GENDER IN THE COMPUTER SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

Only 22% of the students in the computer science department are women. Johnson said the gender gap has been a concern for his entire 20 years in the department.

The department has made several efforts to close the gap. For example, it reached out to other departments for freshmen to take introductory computer science classes. The department also has a club that sends women to a celebration of women in computing every year.

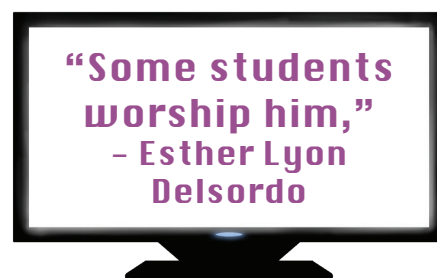
"Technology has the power to change the world, and women need to be a part of that," Betta said.

But still, the gap exists. Duce, one of Smith's coworkers in UM's computer science department, teaches a web development class with 30 students, only three of which are women.

According to Esther Lyon Delsordo, the students in computer science have mixed reviews on Smith.

"Some students worship him," Lyon Delsordo said.

Smith used to be the point of contact for internships, but that position has been taken over by Duce.

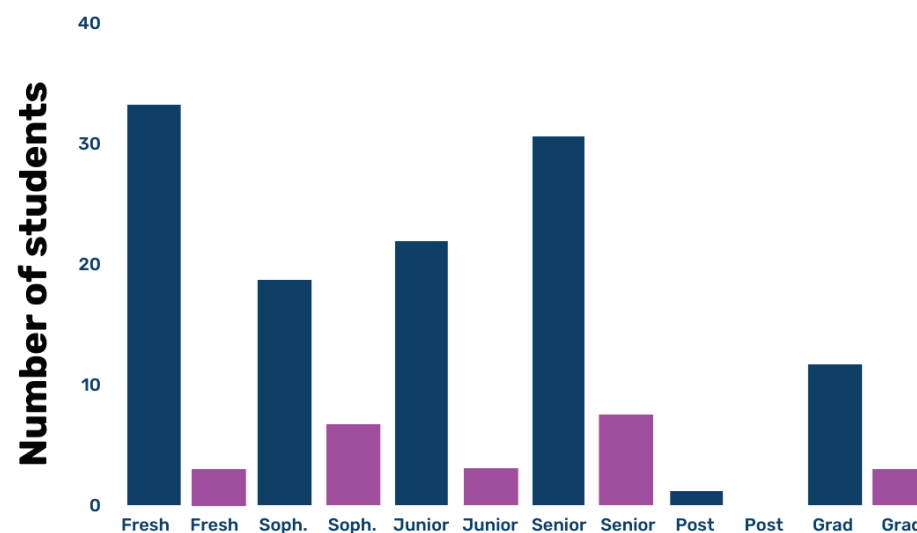


THE NEXT PHASE

Sometime between the evening of Sept. 28 and the morning of Sept. 29, Smith took down every post on his blog. On Sept. 29, he made a post entitled "The next phase of this blog."

"We now live in a world where censorship of ideas leads to unprecedented homogeneity of thought. Diversity of ideas provides potential value when reality changes or turns out to be different than we thought. When we

CS Majors by Gender Class



Year and gender in school

Male ■

Female ■

Data provided by Cathy Burleson, Research Analyst, Office of Institutional Effectiveness
MARIAH KARIS | MONTANA KAIMIN

suppress ideas different than what we already believe, we not only limit what we can become to what we already are, we make ourselves unnecessarily vulnerable to unanticipated challenges," Smith writes in this post.

In an email Sept. 28, the Kaimin requested to meet with Smith for a conversation about ethics. Smith declined. When the Kaimin went into further detail about the story, making reference to his blog, Smith refused to comment again, claiming he'd been deceived. In a follow-up email, the Kaimin told Smith reporters would stop by during his Friday office hours. He again refused to comment, and was not at his office Friday during his scheduled hours. The Kaimin returned to Smith's office hours and visited Prime Labs again to try and get Smith on the record, but Smith was unavailable.

Though Smith's online opinions run totally contrary to what UM stands for, said Kuntz, UM's director of strategic communications, his blog and video commentary is protected speech.

"A tenured faculty member has quite a lot of latitude to say and think what they want," Johnson said. "However, this case is pushing the limits of tenure about as far as they can go."

Duce agreed with Johnson, saying she is unhappy she has to continue working with Smith after discovering the blog.

"I find it just disgusting that I'm going to have to continue to work with someone who's posting comments degrading women," Duce said. "I wouldn't be comfortable as a student taking a class from someone with these beliefs about women."

"His behavior will get very close scrutiny," Johnson said. "He'll have to be removed from as many public-facing roles as possible."

Kuntz said removing Smith from those roles could be possible if Title IX found he'd violated students' rights. The University announced on Oct. 12 that it would be pursuing an investigation.

Duce and Brinkerhoff both said they hoped the University would do a thorough job of looking into Smith's blog and videos. Brinkerhoff added he hoped Smith's free speech rights would be balanced with students' best interests.

Associate Dean Semanoff said he'd only known about the blog since around Sept. 17, and Associate Dean Baldwin didn't find out about it until she returned from a research trip to find the Kaimin's interview request in her inbox. The two said they were looking for guidance from the Provost's office, Title IX and UM Legal Counsel on University policies and procedures with regard to protected speech.

This story will be updated online at montanakaimin.com.

What we can learn from the #freebritney movement

EMILY TSCHETTER

emilytschetter@umontana.edu

The day after the public learned Jamie Spears ended his 13-year conservatorship over his 39-year-old daughter and pop legend Britney Spears, she decided to celebrate her renewed freedom by posting nudes on main. And why shouldn't she?

After a very public 2008 mental health crisis that involved two involuntary psychiatric hospitalizations, her father petitioned for an emergency conservatorship, which is a complex legal agreement usually reserved for the old or ill, that allowed him to assume sole control over her estate, as well as many aspects of her day-to-day life.

The arrangement prevented Britney from traveling, forced her to perform, blocked her from spending her own money and even required her to continue her IUD birth control against her will when she wished to have a child.

For close to a decade, Britney remained silent in the face of almost all her personal autonomy being stripped away and submitted to her father, whom she claimed was unfit to be her conservator because of his struggles with alcoholism. She broke her silence in a public court hearing last year when she said she was "afraid" of her father, and the deal allowed him to ruin her life.

Finally, after a years long legal battle and extensive public pressure from the popular #FreeBritney social movement, Britney is free.

She can spam her 35 million Instagram followers with her modeling photos and snaps of life with questionable aesthetic value, and for that, we will worship her for eons. But are there others falling victim to abuses of their legal arrangements by their conservators?

According to Department of Justice estimates, there are currently 1.3 million U.S. adults under a conservatorship and, for many, it is a necessary to have a third party oversee their affairs. Despite this legitimacy in many cases, our collective values must be seriously questioned when a capable woman who suffered a mental health crisis from intense public pressure can have her rights indefinitely and legally stripped away against her will, and have no autonomy over any aspect of herself, including her body.

Family and friends close to Britney in

the years leading up to the conservatorship said Jamie Spears was not at all present in her life before the arrangement, and simply claimed his legal role for financial gain by seizing her assets. This became even more evident when Jamie forced her to make TV cameos and even produce an entire album only a month after the beginning of the conservatorship began, which stated Britney was not capable of independent living and suffered from dementia. Clearly, Jamie did not display actual concern for his daughter's well-being and did not act in good faith with the legal privileges he assumed.

Women are uniquely affected by possible abuses under conservatorships, the worst of which occurred in Britney's arrangement. For 13 years, Jamie Spears forcibly sterilized his daughter and controlled all her healthcare, despite her expressing a desire to have a child. Through an entirely legal process, male conservators have the capacity to subjugate not only the material aspects of their conservatee, but their reproductive systems and decisions on whether to bear children.

The modern feminist movement often focuses its efforts on promoting equality through abstract changes like leadership transitions and greater representation, rather than substantive policy initiatives. The #FreeBritney movement ushers in an important shift to recognizing the most devastating ways that misogyny oppresses women. This movement should invigorate activists to focus their

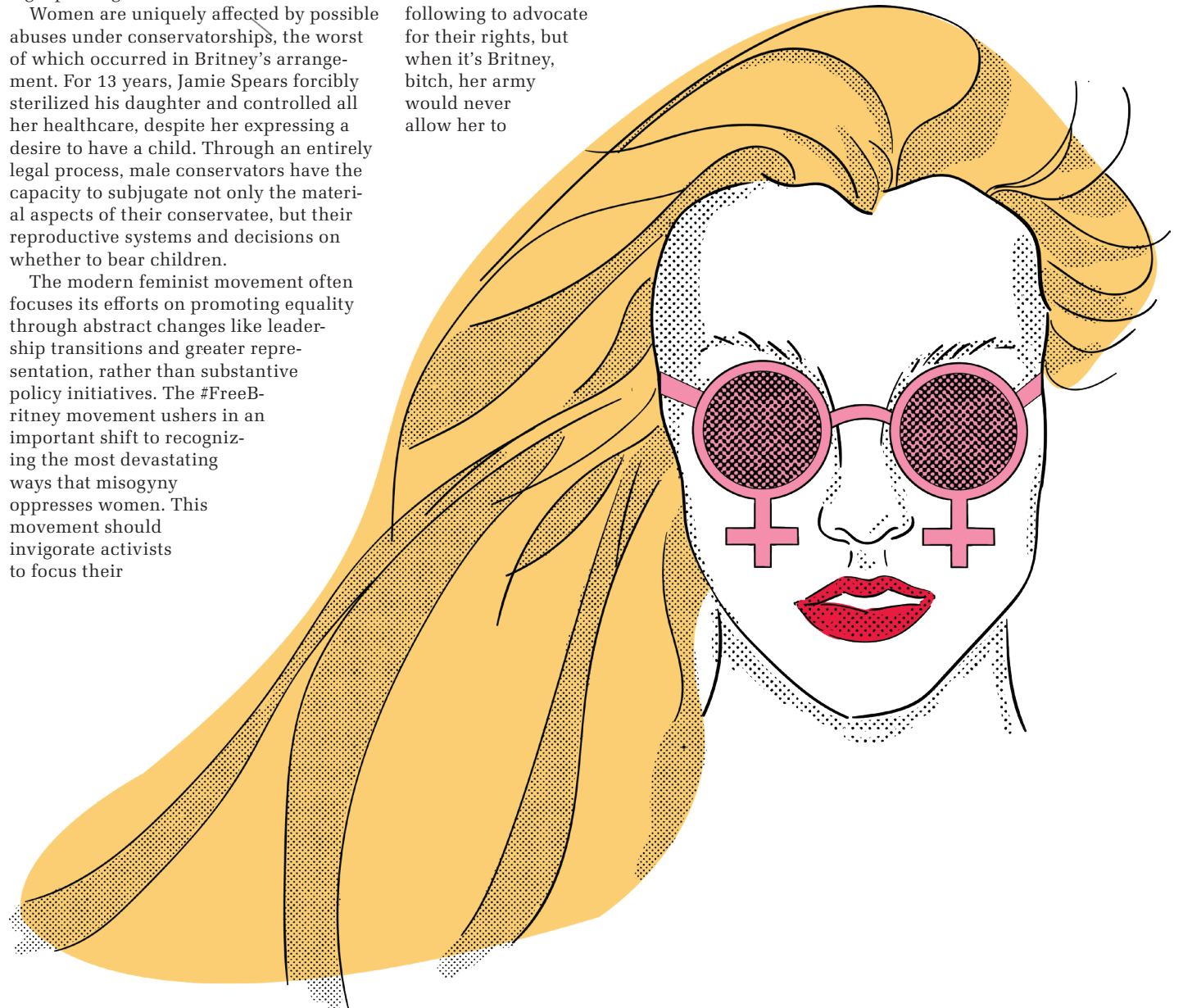
efforts on similar policies and practices that impact women daily.

There is currently no national record of conservatorships, so the Department of Justice does not have reliable data on those under this arrangement, which indicates a troubling lack of oversight on individual cases.

Britney's conservatorship was, in a word, toxic. But she's not the only victim of this glaring legal issue that needs reexamination, and some state legislatures have already implemented some minor reforms for conservatorship oversight. Most conservatees do not have a massive following to advocate for their rights, but when it's Britney, bitch, her army would never allow her to

remain powerless. If this energy and dedication to pop divas could be harnessed for less sexy political issues, human rights activists would likely broaden their impact.

For now, we must bask in the glory of the Holy Spearit's freedom. The Queen B is once again gracing our presences after months of organizing and protesting, and those of us who supported her need to treat ourselves. Dig in the attic, whip out that cassette of "...Baby One More Time" and your pastel pink boombox, and live your low-rise jeans fantasy.



Local band Cosmic Sans brings the heat to new venue “The Furnace”

JOSH MOYAR

jm144854@umconnect.umd.edu

On Saturday, vibes were high and the mosh pit was strong at the celebratory release concert for local band Cosmic Sans' debut album.

Self-described as an “evil psychedelic jazz rock-five piece,” Cosmic Sans has been performing locally for over two years. The members are current and past students of the University of Montana. The group has released a handful of singles in the past and their self-titled twelve-track debut album is available on most streaming platforms.

Along with Cosmic Sans, local punk group the Skurfs and electronic artist Fish Bwoi performed, all raising money for the Hellgate Rollergirls, a Missoula local roller derby team, who own the concert's venue “The Furnace.” Audience members were encouraged to bring their rollerblades to the venue and show off their skills, but no one took them up on that offer.

The evening ended with Cosmic Sans playing its new album from beginning to end. For the final song, “Saturdays,” lead guitarist Seamus Jennings requested that the entire venue sit criss-cross on the floor, as if around a campfire. They've certainly come a long way since performing in the Food Zoo.



Concentration plays across the face of rhythm guitarist Bill Stoskopf as he rips a few guitar chords in front of concert-hungry fans.

OLIVIA SWANT-JOHNSON | MONTANA KAIMIN



Cosmic Sans lead guitarist Seamus Jennings lays down his guitar to belt a soulful rendition of the band's original song “Just Tryin” in front of raving fans during the band's debut album release concert at ‘The Furnace’ in Missoula on Oct. 9. The UM student and alumni band released its first-ever album at a new music venue which opened its doors last weekend on East Spruce Street, across from Black Coffee.

OLIVIA SWANT-JOHNSON | MONTANA KAIMIN



The grooving album release show doubled as a fundraiser for Hellgate Rollergirls, a Missoula roller derby team. Skates were left at home for the night and no ankles were harmed in the releasing of this album.

OLIVIA SWANT-JOHNSON | MONTANA KAIMIN



Cosmic Sans vocalist Jake Howell serenades the audience with songs from the ensemble's new album.

OLIVIA SWANT-JOHNSON | MONTANA KAIMIN

UM Hockey returns with most-attended game ever

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The University of Montana Hockey Club's first official game in seven years made a statement, drawing the largest crowd in the history of the program and ending with a Griz victory of 4-2 over Montana State. The packed game, held Oct. 2, showed just what the new UM Hockey Club is capable of.

"We plan on bringing in another seven bleachers down here," said Ron Swanson, who works for Glacier Ice Rink. With this many attending the first game, hopes are high for the rest of the season.

The first game of the 2021 season outsold anything ever put on by the Junior Bruins, the previous junior league hockey team in Missoula, and far exceeded the attendance of previous University hockey games.

It was nearly sold out. If the team and rink went by bleacher seats it would have been, but the informal nature of the venue and the upstart team left much open to interpretation, including capacity. A free shuttle for UM students from the University helped add to the crowd at the Glacier Ice Rink.

The game brought fans of all ages, demographics and affiliations. The bleachers were packed with Griz gear, flannel and camo. A lively chorus of hometown cheers and regular hockey heckling filled the air.

"I printed 800 tickets," Tucker Sargent, the general manager of the UM Hockey Club, said. "When we got through those and then people just started squeezing through, that's when I realized this was going to be a lot."

The Grizzlies started off sloppy, like a team still shaking off the dust of a seven-year hiatus. The first few minutes of the game were a jumbled mess of uncoordinated passes and long shots. But eventually UM calmed down and beat its in-state rivals 4-2 in a dominant opening game.

"As we get used to a big crowd, we'll get better," coach Mike Anderson said.

In true hockey fashion, the match was marked by more penalties than goals, and both teams dished it out. During each break, a message from a sponsor was announced — many of them for physical therapists and hospitals.

"We took too many penalties," Sargent said. "Community Hospital got their money's worth."

After each game period, the zamboni resurfaced the ice and UM's hockey cheerleading duo came out to perform. Figure skaters Carly Dahms and Sydney Kosiak jumped at the idea of being cheerleaders on ice. Cheerleaders

aren't a normal addition to hockey, but their graceful dancing was a welcomed addition.

Between plays, the announcer interjected to declare that this had in fact been the "most-attended game in the history of Griz Hockey." A cheer roared from the crowd and the glass barriers shook from fans pounding their fists against them in applause. The final count was 1,100.

The room went dark and colored spotlights circled around the ice. Pink and blue, maroon and white. Glacier Rink installed party lights years ago, but according to Sargent, nobody at the rink knew how to operate them. He found a theatre production major and paid them cash to do lights for the game.

"I just told them to make it look cool," Sargent said.

Hockey has its cult following, and for some reason it's often hard to sell Americans on it. But all the little frills on this game paid off. Sargent did everything he could to get attention.

"You're selling basically an idea, and telling them it's gonna be cool," Sargent said. "This is something people care about."

Sargent laughed when asked if the team had a PR rep. He said the team doesn't have much staff in general. He spent most of the game standing in as a ticket seller himself, and most of the operational funds come from donations and sponsorships.

"We've got a booster club set up," Sargent said. "We're going to work on corporate sponsors too."

Most of the program was pulled together by Sargent, who has been working with the University as a lacrosse club coach and club sports organizer for years. As an avid hockey fan, he saw the void of a college team and wanted to see it filled. He went from donor to donor, made connections with the sports community and built relationships.

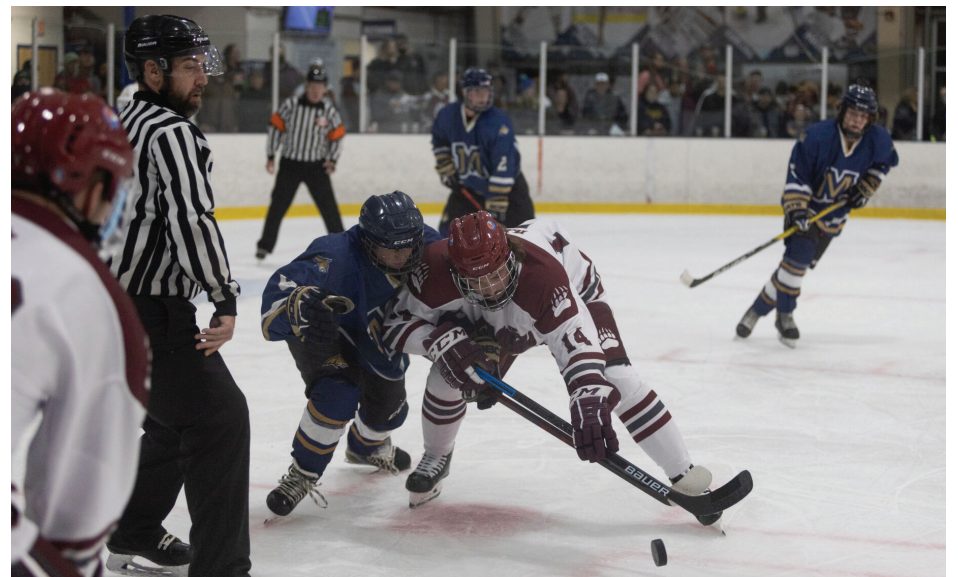
"Missoula has seen a couple of those people come and go," said Timothy Dougherty, who was one of the founding members of Missoula's Flying Mules in the 1980s. "But I think that the nature of the game is now well entrenched. And I think it will live to breathe another day, especially with the University of Montana backing it."

"This was a full-on university effort. That's good and it showed really well," Dougherty said.

When he started the Mules he convinced the school to invest, but its contribution was much smaller then.

"They loaned us a van once or twice, and we abused that privilege," Dougherty said with a laugh. "We abused it tremendously."

This team has been a long time coming.



University of Montana hockey player Henry Morrison fights for the puck during a game against Montana State University at Glacier Ice Rink in Missoula on Oct. 2. The Griz came out strong and beat the Bobcats 4-2 in front of a packed venue. **LUKAS PRINOS | MONTANA KAIMIN**

The game itself is a "rink of dreams" moment: Sargent did build it and they did come.

COVID-19 proved strangely fortuitous for Montana hockey. The Junior Bruins weren't able to play, and after a year of non-activity, the team folded. Sargent saw the collapse of the junior league team as a chance to rebuild the college one. He reenlisted the players and convinced them to play for the Griz. Those players were all too happy to come back to Missoula.

"Missoula is good people," Tyler Fullerton, a defenseman, said. "It's a good place with good people and like, as soon as it was announced, I had an outpour of support, and I was 1000 miles away, so it was unreal."

Fullerton played for the Junior Bruins and went home to Kansas after the closure. He enrolled at Missoula College to play for the new club team.

After the first game of the season was already the most attended Missoula hockey game in history, Fullerton expects to keep winning.

After beating its rival Montana State, the UM hockey team kept Fullerton's expectation, winning its next two games. The two wins were against Gonzaga on the road on Oct. 9. The first one ended 6-0 while the second ended 7-2. The Griz will play MSU again on Oct. 15 and 16.

"We're brand new to this division," Anderson said. "Every day is a new discovery."

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Griz beat Dixie State despite sluggish start

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The Griz defeated Dixie State at home 31-14 on Oct. 9 in a game that saw Montana start a new quarterback and score only three points in the first half.

"It was an exciting, fun game to be a part of," UM head coach Bobby Hauck said. "[I'm] really glad to get the win."

The game was the first-ever matchup between UM and Dixie State, which is playing its first season as a Division 1 team. UM started redshirt freshman Kris Brown as quarterback after its original starter, Cam Humphrey, was carried off the field with an injury to his right ankle in UM's last game.

Brown had an up-and-down game in his first start, logging 241 passing yards and a touchdown while throwing one interception and fumbling once. Brown was also sacked three times and struggled to get offensive momentum going in the first half.

The first 10 drives of the game didn't end in any points, and six of them ended in punts. The score at the end of the first quarter was 0-0. One of UM's lone highlights in the first quarter came when defensive back Justin Ford intercepted a Dixie State pass in the end zone.

Montana finally opened up scoring midway through the second quarter when kicker Kevin Macias made a 27-yard field goal to put the Griz up 3-0.

Both teams buckled down defensively for the rest of the first half, and the halftime score remained 3-0. The last time UM scored just three points in the first half was against Washington in its season opening game Sept. 4.

In the second half, Montana's offense

finally kicked into gear. True freshman Junior Bergen ran in a six-yard touchdown early in the second half to give UM a 10-0 lead.

Bergen was originally playing receiver for the Griz in 2021, but because Montana's main running backs are injured, Bergen has been playing running back instead. He had 44 rushing yards on 14 carries in the game.

After Bergen's touchdown, UM's offense once again marched the ball down the field and scored, this time in the form of a Brown pass to tight end Cole Grossman. Grossman had 70 receiving yards in the game, more than any of UM's receivers. The Brown-to-Grossman connection put the Griz up 17-0.

At the end of the third quarter, Montana still led 17-0 and fans began filing out of Washington-Grizzly Stadium. Montana's attendance was listed at 23,434: the first time its stadium hasn't been sold out in the season.

Brown took in a rushing touchdown from a yard out early in the fourth quarter to extend Montana's lead to 24-0. He had 27 rushing yards in the game, but was sacked for a total of 29 yards. His rushing total was -2 yards.

On Dixie State's first drive of the second half it looked like the Trailblazers might score, but Ford recovered a fumble that he returned out to midfield.

Montana's celebration after Ford's big play didn't last long, as five plays later Brown fumbled the ball and Dixie State returned it for a touchdown. The Trailblazers attempted a two-point conversion, but failed, so the score stood at 24-6 in UM's favor.

Brown got redemption later in the game



Montana quarter back Kris Brown cocks his arm to throw the ball to a teammate as the Griz face-off against Dixie State at Washington-Grizzly Stadium. After a rough start in the first half, UM came out on top and beat Dixie State 31-14. Brown completed 20 passes for 241 yards and a touchdown pass.

LUKAS PRINOS | MONTANA KAIMIN

when he rushed for another one-yard touchdown to put the Griz up 31-6. Dixie State scored on a passing touchdown on its next drive. The Trailblazers late rally wasn't enough though, and UM won 31-14.

Montana had 440 total yards compared to Dixie State's 261. The Griz allowed Dixie State to gain a measly average of 1.3 yards on its rush attempts.

UM is now 4-1 on the season, and thanks to losses from top-ranked FCS

teams in the country, the Griz will return to the top five in the country. UM's next game is against Sacramento State at home on Oct. 16.

Dixie State, which is playing an independent schedule before it joins the Western Athletic Conference next season, is now 0-5.



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